

In the claims

A₁ 3. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sensing apparatus further comprises an actuatable port means, openable to release the separable elements.

Sub
4. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the separable elements each comprise a rigid casing with a sealable aperture, the casing surrounding data storage means in which the acquired data is stored for transfer to the surface.

A₂ 6. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the separable elements are spherical.

A₃ 8. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the housing of the sensing apparatus and casings of the separable elements are formed from plastics material or metal.

9. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the separable elements are configured to be either neutrally buoyant or buoyant, in relation to well fluids.

10. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the separable elements have a diameter in the range of 1 to 10cm.

11. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the separable elements have a diameter in the range 1 to 5cm.

12. (Amended) A sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data is encrypted prior to transfer to the separable elements.